MRTS in Madras

5552. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mass Rapid Transit System in Madras was approved by the Planning Commission and if so, what was the cost of this project when it was approved;

(b) whether it was planned originally from Tiruvathigur to Taramani;

(c) whether the work was taken up from Beach Station to Luz and how much amount had been spent as on the 30th September, 1994; and

(d) what was the cost for taking up the work from Luz to Taramani and when it would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) MRTS from Madras Beach to Luz was approved by Planning Commission in the year 1983 at an estimated cost of Rs. 53.46 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The work from Madras Beach to Luz was taken up and the expenditure incurred upto 30th September, 1994 is Rs. 118.19 crores.

(d) Preliminary Techno-economic Survey for MRTS from Luz to Taramani, has been included in the Railways' Works Programme — 1995-96. Taking up of the project will depend upon results of the survey and availability of funds.

Development of Jalandhar Railway Station MRTs in Madras

5553. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the Jalandhar Railway Station in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of plans for developing this Station, the different components of the proposed development scheme and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Development of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken whenever so warranted by growth in passenger traffic, subject to availability of funds and relative priorities of various stations. Jalandhar City Railway Station was recently developed as a Model Station and amenities provided/augmented at cost of Rs. 49.15 lakh. Further work of provision of an additional foot-over-bridge at a cost of Rs. 18.92 lakh has also been included in the Works Programme for 1995-96.

Construction of over-bridge at Bata Chowk, Faridabad

5554. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the over-crowding and traffic congestion at the level crossing at Bata Chowk in Faridabad wherefrom thousands of daily commuters board and alight from the fast trains;

(b) if so, what are the details of proposals to solve the problem; and

(c) what is the present progress to provide an over-bridge at this crossing to meet the traffic needs and for the benefit of daily commuters?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.